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E04. 71. (Amended) A composite skin product forming a collagen support comprising at least one porous collagen layer covered on at least one side with a collagen membrane prepared by a compression of a collagen sponge at a pressure of at least about 50 bar, said porous collagen layer comprising living fibroblasts and said collagen membrane comprising on the surface thereof living cells selected from the group consisting of: keratinocytes, melanocytes, Merkel's cells, Langerhans' cells originating from the blood, sebocytes, and cells originating from the blood.

E2 73. (Amended) The product of claim 71, wherein the collagen sponge is compressed at a pressure between about 50 bar and 200 bar and at a temperature between about 40°C and 60°C.

E3 75. (New) The product of claim 70, further comprising a collagen gel on at least one surface of the membrane.

E4 78. (Amended) The product of claim 65, wherein at least one of said porous collagen layer and said collagen membrane is produced from a collagen gel containing a mixture of soluble collagen and insoluble collagen, wherein the collagen is selected from the group consisting of type I collagen and type III collagen.

E5 82 (Amended) The artificial skin of claim 79, comprising living cells selected from the group consisting of fibroblasts, keratinocytes, melanocytes, Langerhans' cells originating from the blood, endothelial cells originating from the blood, blood cells, sebocytes, chondrocytes, osteocytes, osteoblasts and Merkel's cells, said cells being normal, genetically modified or malignant.

E6 84. (Amended) The artificial skin of claim 80, wherein at least one of said porous collagen layer and said collagen membrane comprises a compound which favors cell development.

86. (Amended) The artificial skin of claim 79, wherein the collagen is selected from the group consisting of collagen and a mixture of collagen with at least one polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of a cellulose, a dextran, an alginate, a carrageenan, a glycosaminoglycan, and a chitosan.

87. (Amended) The artificial skin of claim 79, wherein at least one of said porous collagen layer and said collagen membrane is crosslinked.

94. (Amended) The method of claim 90, comprising living cells selected from the group consisting of fibroblasts, keratinocytes, melanocytes, Langerhans' cells originating from the blood, endothelial cells originating from the blood, blood cells, sebocytes, chondrocytes, osteocytes, osteoblasts, and Merkel's cells, said cells being normal, genetically modified or malignant.

103. (Amended) The product of claim 100, wherein the living cells are selected from the group consisting of fibroblasts, keratinocytes, melanocytes, Langerhans' cells originating from the blood, endothelial cells originating from the blood, blood cells, sebocytes, chondrocytes, osteocytes, osteoblasts, and Merkel's cells, said cells being normal, genetically modified or malignant.

104. (Amended) An artificial skin product forming a collagen support comprising at least one porous collagen layer covered on at least one side with a collagen membrane prepared by drying a collagen gel separately from the porous collagen layer, said porous collagen layer comprising living fibroblasts and said compact membrane comprising on the surface thereof living cells selected from the group consisting of: keratinocytes, melanocytes, Merkel's cells, Langerhans' cells originating from the blood, and sebocytes.

106. (Amended) The product of claim 105, further comprising a collagen gel on at least one surface of the collagen membrane.

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113. (Amended) The artificial skin of claim 110, comprising living cells selected from the group consisting of fibroblasts, keratinocytes, melanocytes, Langerhans' cells originating from the blood, endothelial cells originating from the blood, blood cells, sebocytes, chondrocytes, osteocytes, osteoblasts, and Merkel's cells, said cells being normal, genetically modified or malignant.

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117. (Amended) The artificial skin of claim 110, wherein the collagen is selected from the group consisting of a collagen and a mixture of collagen with at least one polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of cellulose, dextran, alginate, carrageenan, sulfated glycosaminoglycans, and chitosan.

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119. (Amended) The artificial skin of claim 118, wherein crosslinking is a thermal dehydration under vacuum.

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122. (Amended) The product of claim 121, wherein said living cells on the surface of the membrane are selected from the group consisting of keratinocytes, melanocytes, Merkel's cells, Langerhans' cells originating from the blood, sebocytes, and cells originating from the blood.

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130. (Amended) The product of claim 71, wherein said product is a reconstructed dermis, comprising the fibroblasts that colonized the porous collagen layer forming a three dimensional matrix, said dermis being covered with a multilayer epidermis comprising said collagen membrane.

131. (Amended) The product of claim 104, wherein said product is a reconstructed skin composed of a reconstructed dermis, comprising the fibroblasts that colonized the porous collagen layer forming a three dimensional matrix, said dermis being covered with a multilayer epidermis comprising said collagen membrane.

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132. (Amended) The product of claim 121, wherein said product is a reconstructed skin composed of a reconstructed dermis, comprising the fibroblasts that colonized the porous collagen layer forming a three dimensional matrix, said dermis being covered with a multilayer epidermis comprising said collagen membrane.


CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and comments presented in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 faxed on November 13, 2002 and herein, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative at the number given below if it would advance prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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